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Draft report

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IV. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

1. During the general exchange of views at the 276th and 277th meetings of the Special Committee, on 17 and 18 February 2015, delegations commended the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to update the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and to eliminate the backlog in their preparation. The significance of the two publications as sources of reference and effective means to maintain the institutional memory of the Organization and their importance in the dissemination of the work of the Organization were recalled. The contribution made by the publications to the advancement of international justice was commended. Several delegations emphasized the need to eliminate the backlog with regard to volume III of the *Repertory*. The hope was expressed that the publications would be published on the United Nations website in the official languages of the Organization.

2. Delegations expressed appreciation to those Member States that had contributed to the two trust funds established for the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, which had facilitated the progress in eliminating the backlog with regard to those publications, and encouraged Member States to make additional contributions.

3. At its 2nd meeting, the Working Group of the Whole was informed by representatives of the Secretariat about the status of the preparation of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*.

4. It was reported that an Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory had met recently and decided, on the basis of past experience, that Supplement No. 11 would cover a period of six years, 2010 to 2015.

5. Concerning the status of the *Repertory*, it was reported that a study on Article 53 for volume III, Supplements 7 to 9 (1985-1999), had been completed and

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would soon be submitted to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the author department, and that research was undertaken by the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa in relation to studies on Articles 52 and 54. A study on Article 16 for Supplement 10 (2000-2009) had been finalized, thus completing volume II, which was scheduled to be submitted for publication in 2015, and work was ongoing on other studies pertaining to that Supplement.

6. The partnership with Columbia Law School had continued for the twelfth consecutive year, resulting in the preparation of one study being completed in the past year. Cooperation with the University of Ottawa had also continued, two studies pertaining to Supplements 7 to 9 and three studies pertaining to Supplement 10 being currently under way. The Secretariat was also assisted by the work of interns.

7. Since the establishment of the trust fund in 2005, more than $136,000 had been donated. After the use of part of the funds for the preparation of *Repertory* studies, approximately $36,000 remained available in the trust fund.

8. With regard to the *Repertoire*, it was pointed out that, in the past year, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division had worked on Supplements 17 and 18, covering the period from 2010 to 2013.

9. The entire volume of Supplement 17, covering the years 2010 and 2011, had been completed and made available electronically in an advance version on the Security Council website in June 2014. The groundwork on Supplement 18, covering 2012 and 2013, had been carried out systematically over the past two years by recording the most contemporary practice of the Security Council in an internal database and compiling the relevant documentation. Several chapters of that Supplement would be made available on the website in the second of half of 2015. Progress in the work on Supplement 18 would depend on the availability of resources. Work was also continuing on translating the *Repertoire* into all of the official languages and publishing the completed Supplements covering the period from 1993 to 2009.

10. It was also emphasized that, in addition to electronic versions of the *Repertoire*, the Security Council website contained, for example, tables and graphs providing an overview of historical trends relating to the work of the Council, highlights of Security Council practice for 2013 and a table showing components of the mandates of current peacekeeping and political missions, which allowed for comparison of current mandates over time and across missions.

11. Following the reports by representatives of the Secretariat, several delegations sought clarification regarding the modalities of cooperation with academic institutions and associate experts. With a view to reducing the backlog in preparing the *Repertoire*, it was suggested that the cooperation with academic institutions could be extended, to possibly also include translation services, and that efforts should be undertaken, in consultation with Member States, to identify associate experts. The Secretariat explained that it had cooperated with more academic institutions in the past, and that it is open to extending its cooperation programmes in the future. It was further noted that, consistent with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the *Repertory* was prepared only in English, French and Spanish.